



**Rollwagen Bollens, Ph.D.**

Rollwagen Bollens is currently a Research Scientist at the Romberg Tiburon Center for Environmental Studies, the marine research laboratory of San Francisco State University. She received her PhD in Integrative Biology from UC Berkeley in 2003, with a dissertation entitled "Protozoan-metazoan linkages in planktonic food webs: Spatial and temporal variability and trophic role of micro- and nanoplankton in the San Francisco Estuary." One of the main conclusions of her dissertation research

was that heterotrophic protists (i.e. ciliates) are an abundant and at times dominant component of the microzooplankton community in the more saline regions of the SFE, and often comprise a significant proportion of *Acartia* spp. copepod diet.

Her CALFED Science Fellowship research builds upon the results of her dissertation, by examining the potential role of protistan microzooplankton in the planktonic food web of Suisun Bay, further up the estuary. She is conducting feeding experiments with copepods to determine diet composition and ingestion rates in Suisun Bay, as well as concurrent dilution experiments to assess the ingestion rates and grazing impact of microzooplankton. Her goal is to quantify the trophic connections between planktonic primary producers and primary and secondary consumers in Suisun Bay, in order to better understand the potential for microzooplankton to serve as a source or sink of production.